

Being a Dad...



HELPING YOUR CHILD GET READY TO READ



- When you read at home with your baby or child, cuddle up. Sit them in your lap or by your side so that they will feel close to you and comfortable. This makes reading even more enjoyable.
- Use sounds, songs, and words that rhyme to help your child learn about language, and have your child join in.
- Make it fun. Use funny voices and gestures to bring the characters in a book to life.
- Ask about the pictures and what your child thinks is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books
- When reading a book with large print, point at each word as you read it. Your child will understand that the word being spoken is the word they see.
- Point out printed words in your home and other places you take your child, like the grocery store.
- Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to them.
- Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy while travelling and running errands.
- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write, and draw.
- Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them; this will communicate that reading is a great activity for them, too!
- Read a favorite book over and over again.
- Read out loud during everyday activities (reading a recipe, instructions for a game, a funny comic strip in the paper) – this gives your child another example of reading and its usefulness.
- Continue to read at home no matter how old your children are. Let them read to you as well.
- Limit the amount and type of television you and your child watch.
- Read books, newspapers and magazines yourself, in front of your child, so they see that reading is important.
- Make a plan – schedule time for family reading every day. Many children love routine, and they will quickly make this an important part of their day.

